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Press Release

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MUSEUM ART EXHIBITIONS IN FINAL WEEK

Juneau residents will have their final opportunity this week to view two exhibitions offering overviews of art in Alaska: *Earth Fire and Fibre XXVI*, a statewide survey of contemporary Alaska crafts, and *Art for Alaskans, the Alaska Contemporary Art Bank*, a selection of artworks purchased by the state over the past thirty years, will close Tuesday, January 15, at the Alaska State Museum.

Earth, Fire and Fibre is organized every two years by the Anchorage Museum at the Rasmuson Center as a competitive showcase for Alaska artists who work in traditional craft genres such as jewelry making, metal, ceramics, quilting and wood carving. Michael W. Monroe, Director and Chief Curator for the Bellevue Art Museum in Washington, was the juror for the exhibit. Anne Lingener-Reese of Anchorage took the Juror's Choice Award for a group of works in silver, including jewelry, candlesticks and a bowl and spoon.

Art for Alaskans, the Alaska Contemporary Art Bank is a survey of artworks created by some of Alaska's most prominent artists. The State of Alaska purchased the artworks for display in state offices and public spaces. Thirty-seven works ranging from 1976 to the present are featured. They are in a variety of media, including painting, print, sculpture and fabric. Works by Native artists show how traditional styles are changing. Throughout, one can see Alaskan artists' primary concerns such as: landscape, tradition, innovation, commercialization, satire and spirituality.

Winter hours at the museum are 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Admission is \$3. Visitors 18 and under are admitted free of charge. An annual pass that allows unlimited visits to the Alaska State Museum and the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka is available for \$15. Assistance is available for visitors with special needs. Please contact Visitor Services at 465-2901 before the visit.

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